

**Claims**

1.           A method for determining a dependency between a  
first and a second system resource performance  
5           characteristic in a computing system, comprising the  
steps of:  
              providing data values for the first performance  
characteristic and the second performance  
characteristic of the computing system; and  
10           applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a  
correlation value between the first and second  
characteristics,  
              wherein the correlation value provides and  
indication of the relative association between the  
15           second characteristic and the first characteristic.
2.           A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein  
the mathematical algorithm is the Pearson correlation  
coefficient equation.  
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3.           A method of determining sub-optimal performance  
in a computing system, comprising the steps of,  
              determining a dependency between a first and a  
second system resource performance characteristic in  
25           a computing system, the step of determining the  
dependency including the steps of:  
              providing data values for the first performance  
characteristic and the second performance  
characteristic of the computing system; and  
30           applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a  
correlation value between the first and second  
characteristics,  
              wherein the correlation value provides an  
indication of the relative association between the  
35           second characteristic and the first characteristic.
4.           A system for analysing a computing system

comprising determination means arranged to determine a dependency between a first and a second system resource performance characteristic in a computing system, the determination means further comprising:

5           data gathering means arranged to provide data values for the first performance characteristic and the second performance characteristic of the computing system; and

10           computational means arranged to apply a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between the first and second characteristics,

          wherein the correlation value provides an indication of the relative association between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.

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5.           A computer program arranged, when loaded on a computing system, to implement the method in accordance with claim 1.

20   6.           A computer readable medium providing a computer program in accordance with claim 5.

7.           A method of analysing a computer system to determine the cause of an intermittent system  
25           overload, comprising the steps of,

          providing data values for the first performance characteristic and the second performance characteristic of the computing system; and

30           applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between the first and second characteristics,

          wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.

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8.           A method of ameliorating the need to monitor multiple system characteristics by determining a

subset of performance characteristics which particularly impact on the performance of a given computing system, comprising the steps of,

5           providing data values for the first performance characteristic and the second performance characteristic of the computing system; and

          applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between the first and second characteristics,

10           wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.

9.           A method of analysing a computing system to  
15           determine problematic characteristics of the computing system to reduce the number of characteristics which require further analysis, comprising the steps of,

          providing data values for the first performance  
20           characteristic and the second performance characteristic of the computing system; and

          applying a mathematical algorithm to derive a correlation value between the first and second characteristics,

25           wherein the correlation value provides and indication of the relative association between the second characteristic and the first characteristic.